

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An expression vector, said vector comprising an expression cassette comprising from 5' to 3' the following elements: a CMV promoter sequence, a CMV enhancer sequence, a CMV intron A sequence from the CMV major immediate early gene, a heterologous nucleic acid sequence, and a polyadenylation site, wherein the promoter is operably linked to the heterologous nucleic acid sequence, wherein the expression cassette comprises nucleotides 1-1653 of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

2. (Original) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein the CMV intron A sequence has a deletion from about base 1513 to about base 1736.

3. (Original) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein the heterologous nucleic acid encodes a cancer antigen.

4.-5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein the expression cassette comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

7. (Original) The expression vector of claim 3, wherein the cancer antigen is encoded by the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6.

8. (Currently Amended) An isolated host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 1.

9.-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) An isolated host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 6.

12. (Original) The host cell of claim 8, wherein the host cell is selected from the group consisting of *E. coli* and mammalian cells.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The host cell of claim 11, wherein the host cell is selected from the group consisting of *E. coli* and mammalian cells.

15. (Original) A composition comprising an expression vector as set forth in claim 1.

16. (Withdrawn) A method for expressing a heterologous nucleic acid sequence, the method comprising culturing a host cell comprising an expression vector, said vector comprising an expression cassette comprising from 5' to 3' the following elements: a CMV promoter sequence, a CMV enhancer sequence, a CMV intron A sequence from the CMV major immediate early gene, a heterologous nucleic acid sequence, and a polyadenylation site, wherein the promoter is operably linked to the heterologous nucleic acid sequence.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the CMV intron A sequence has a deletion from about base 1513 to about base 1736.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the heterologous nucleic acid encodes a cancer antigen.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the expression cassette comprises nucleotides 54-3675 of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the expression cassette comprises nucleotides 1-1653 of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the expression cassette comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the host cell is selected from the group consisting of *E. coli* and mammalian cells.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the cancer antigen is encoded by the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6.

24. (Withdrawn) A method for eliciting an immune response, the method comprising the steps of administering an immunogenically effective amount of the immunogenic composition of claim 12 to a subject, wherein the immune response is directed against a polypeptide encoded by the heterologous nucleic acid sequence.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein the immunogenic composition is administered multiple times.